

# Quarterly Gold Strip



Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District's Official Newsletter

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# Spring/Summer Reflection

by Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- AADUSD Superintendent

Welcome to our spring/summer edition of "Quarterly Gold", a newsletter showcasing the accomplishments of AADUSD.

After the hectic push to the finish line, summer is finally here!

I am so proud of all our students and the academic progress they made this year.

Students and staff- THANK YOU for your flexibility and responsiveness throughout this year. Be proud of a job well done!

Together we will continue to nurture and support our future leaders.

Wishing our entire AADUSD community a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer.

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AADUSD is stronger together!

### Spring Open House at Meadowlark and High Desert

Meadowlark's Open House on May 18th had an amazing turnout by the ML community. Thank you parents, staff, and ML's PTO for all of their efforts.







<u>High Desert's Open House</u> was held on June 1st. HDS had a wonderful turnout turnout by the HDS community. Thank you parents, staff, and HDS's Booster Club for all of their efforts.







# Night of the Stars



The Vasquez HS's 2023 <u>Night of the Stars</u> was held on May 31st. Department recognitions, academic excellence, valedictorian, and honors in athletics awarded to students. Thank you parents, staff, and students for the celebratory evening!













# Community Partners- Making it Happen



# Thank you to the Acton Women's Club-VHS Senior Scholarships

On May 17th, the gracious Acton Women's club recognized six Vasquez HS seniors with scholarships.

We are grateful for the Acton Women's Club tireless work in support of our students as they place a special emphasis on providing scholarships to our qualifying four Vasquez High School seniors.

Thank you Acton Womens' Club Board of Directors and President, Valerie Williams for this invitation.

Students, congratulations for being recipients of the scholarships. You are on amazing journey, treasure each and every moment.



# Community Partners- Making it Happen (continued)



#### The six recipients are:

Adam Frank- attending UC Santa Barbara in the fall Savannah Goodnight- attending UC Berkeley in the fall Ashley Hinkel- attending UCLA in the fall Mason McConnell- attending Cal Lutheran in the fall Sarah Reyes- attending College of the Canyons in the fall Myra Schneider- attending University of Oregon in the fall







Adam Frank

Savannah Goodnight

Ashley Hinkel



Mason McConnell



Myra Schneider

## AADUSD Educational Services Update



Spring Highlights -

#### MTSS Team

The district—wide Multi—Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team, meets weekly and brings together, the assistant superintendent, site administrators, counselors, TOSAs (Teacher on Special Assignment), and teacher leaders and plays a pivotal role in providing comprehensive learning support to students across all tiers. This dedicated team collaboratively works to implement evidence—based practices that address the diverse needs of our student population. By leveraging their collective expertise and experience, they create a robust framework that encompasses academic, behavioral, and social—emotional support. The team has worked to implement Universal Screening tools, evidence based learning intervention programs, improved and vertically aligned SST (Student Success Teams) procedures, and has engaged in ongoing assessment, data analysis, and intervention planning. Their unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment empowers students to thrive academically and emotionally, setting them on a path towards long—term success.

#### New Teacher Induction

AADUSD New Teacher Induction hosted its first annual Colloquium to celebrate the achievements of our candidates and coaches. Our partnership with RCOE Center for Teacher Innovation in our new teacher induction program has proven to be immensely valuable in guiding and supporting our new educators. New teacher induction is a two year program through which preliminary teachers are able to clear their teaching credential through expanded learning, inquiry, and coaching. With a total of eight candidates enrolled, we have witnessed remarkable achievements. Five candidates successfully completed the induction process at the end of this year. Two of them demonstrated exceptional dedication and aptitude in prior school years, making them eligible for the one-year early completion track, while three candidates completed the second year, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to professional growth. Remarkably, four out of the five candidates have met all the requirements and have already applied for their Professional Clear Credential. Additionally, two candidates successfully completed the first year of the program, and one candidate made significant progress despite joining midyear. Those three candidates will have the opportunity to complete year 2 of induction in the 2023-24 school year. Undoubtedly, this program has empowered our new teachers, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career in education.

### AADUSD Educational Services Update (continued)



#### **LCAP**

The annual revision of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) serves as a crucial step in our commitment to educational excellence. Instructional TOSAs, Alexa Lepp and Nicole Chun, and Counselor, Nicole Salsedo, joined district admin to draft the LCAP update for the 2022-23. Each year, we engage in a comprehensive review process to ensure that our LCAP accurately reflects the evolving needs and aspirations of our students, families, and community. This revision involves gathering input from various education partners, including teachers, parents, administrators, and community members, through surveys, meetings, and forums. By considering their valuable perspectives and insights, we can make informed decisions and prioritize resources effectively. The annual revision of the LCAP enables us to adapt our strategies, set ambitious goals, and allocate resources in a manner that supports equitable access to quality education and fosters student success. Our dedication to this iterative process is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing an inclusive and impactful educational experience for all.

#### **Textbook Adoption**

We are thankful for the diligent efforts of our adoption committee, Nicole Chun, Amanda Stillwell, Jay Knee, and Aaron Zwirn, in selecting and recommending a new history social science curriculum. With representative teachers from elementary, middle, and high school, the committee embarked on a thorough evaluation process to identify a curriculum that aligns with our educational goals and values. Their extensive research, analysis, piloting, and collaborative discussions ensured that the recommended curriculum meets the rigorous academic standards.

#### **SOAR**

The SOAR early reading intervention program, coordinated by TOSA Candice Palacios, has emerged successful in fostering literacy skills among our students. Through the utilization of the Sonday system, a science of reading structured literacy program, participating students receive daily intensive instruction in phonemic awareness, a fundamental aspect of reading development. The results have been remarkable, as students enrolled in the program have exhibited substantial growth on the BPST (Basic Phonics Skills Test) assessments. The combination of Candice Palacios' coordination and the evidence-based instructional approach has proven to be a winning formula for improving reading abilities. The SOAR early reading intervention program stands as a shining example of our commitment to providing targeted support that equips students with the foundational skills necessary for lifelong success in reading and beyond.

### Vasquez HS- PTSO Activities











What a year! Prior to spring break, PTSO hopped into action, donning a bunny suit and candy-filled plastic eggs, 2 of our members took to the classrooms to deliver yummy treats to teachers and staff. This would kick off the remaining last few weeks left in the school year. (It could be the bunny ventured off campus to other sites as well--maybe even the district office .....)

The month of May brought a 'food-filled' week during teacher/staff appreciation week. Each day brought something new to thank our wonderful Mustang leaders. A taco bar, homemade chili and ice cream sundaes were some of the delightful items that were served in the brightly decorated lounge.

As the year wound down, PTSO assisted at

Night of the Stars with refreshments.

Additionally, on the last day of school, helping with the annual senior breakfast, serving breakfast burritos and fruit to our graduates.

Another successful year of serving students and staff could not have happened without the help of so many dedicated volunteers. Thank you to my faithful crew: Lisa, Suzy, Amy, Dawn S., Celeste, Mary, Lee, Mari, Karen, and Dawn M. You're ALL fantastic! And, of course, the parents and community members who have donated monetarily and with items for raffle baskets at events. Lastly, a huge thank you to VHS Principal Dr. Chamberlain, office staff, and custodial staff for always making room for us.

Congratulations to our very own long-time PTSO volunteer Mary Fife for being awarded the prestigious 'Golden Apple'! What a year indeed! – We look forward to autumn and welcoming new members as we plan the annual Fall Festival, looking ahead to the 2023/24 school year- together!

Together is better!
Tracy Costan- VHS PTSO President

# Showcasing AADUSD Athletics



The 2022-2023 sports season concluded with all three spring teams qualifying for the CIF playoffs.

Track and field were represented by Dean Matas, Kien Cooke, and Melani McClaws. All three advance to prelims and posted personal bests. Coach Ivy and Mari did an excellent job getting the most out of their athletes.

Baseball finished the season 12-8-1 and finished third in the Heritage League. The baseball team qualified for playoffs for the seventh year in a row. It was a rebuilding year for the Mustangs, but seniors Camron Mendez, Mason McConnell, and Blake Galbreath led the way and taught the younger students how to play the game the Mustang way.

Softball had another historic season. They won the league title for the fourth year in a row and have a 26-game win streak in league play. Coach Nicole and Anthony have this program pointed in the right direction, and we can expect another great year next year with starters Tenley Puett, Hartley Lundquist, and Brooklyn Berger returning.

Sports at Vasquez never really end. Football, cross country, girls' volleyball and girls' tennis are all practicing for the fall season. We are looking forward to watching our students shine on the field next year.

Sheldon Sparks-Athletic Director, Vasquez HS

# Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)

The Hawks concluded their spring season of athletics with Basketball and Track & Field. Led by new coaches, Leonardo Rivas and Amy Hagiu, the basketball teams found tremendous success on the court. For the first time since becoming a member of the Silver League in 2018, the Hawks fielded 4 full basketball teams (Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys, JV Girls, and JV Boys). Both Varsity teams earned #2 seeds in the Silver League Championship tournament. Playing in front of a home crowd at Vasquez High School, the tournament was electric. The stands were packed and the Spirit Squad, led by Adaliz Giron, cheered the teams on! In a highly competitive game, the Varsity Girls finished as the Silver League Runner up. The future is bright for the Hawk hoopsters!

On the track, Mrs. T and Mrs. Botton coached the runners to several top performances. Congratulations to Silver League Champions Ryland O'Brien in the Long Jump and Leonardo Rivas in the Shot Put. Rounding out the All Silver League Team are 2nd Place finishers: Ryland O'Brian (Shot Put, 100M), Esther Rivas (Long Jump), Josh Sandoval Plouffe (800M), Alexis Van Ornum (800M), and 3rd Place finishers: Leo Rivas (Long Jump), Josephine Butler (Long Jump), and Alexis Van Ornum (1600M).

Congratulations to all of the coaches and athletes at High Desert Middle School that have proudly worn the green and white colors. They have brought tremendous pride to the school and community.

Dawn Schneider-Athletic Director, High Desert School





# Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)













# Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)













# 2023 Promotion and Graduation Celebrations: Congratulations!









# 2023 Promotion and Graduation Celebrations: Congratulations!





























#### **UPDATE:**

The Strategic Plan Writing team (made up of staff, parent, and a community members) have been working diligently in synthesizing the robust feedback received from our insightful Strategic Plan Development Team.

With that said, the updated Strategic Plan will be a live document that would incorporate not only our strategic goals, but action items and tasks with timelines to assess our efforts.

Initially, the Writing Team proposed presenting the final draft to the Development Team in late

May and then to our school board in June.

However, at this juncture, we strongly believe the action items and tasks for each goal need careful thought and consideration as we are looking to align efforts to our LCAP as well as our SPSAs (School Plan for Student Achievement).

The Writing Team is looking to continue the work through the summer, then present the final draft to our respective educational partners for their input in the fall, starting with our Development Team.

We want to ensure that the final document/plan is a solid guide for moving our district forward successfully.



